

With changing technology, ongoing welfare reform efforts, and the rising numbers of people from all over the world coming to Arkansas to live, the role of adult education is more important than ever before.

Many Arkansans perceive adult education programs as places to earn a GED. But, there's much more. Nearly 68,000 Arkansans received adult education services in fiscal year 2001. In addition to adults seeking improvements in their **basic educational skills**, these numbers include many "new" Arkansans who come to adult education to learn to speak English and take advantage of other **English as a Second Language (ESL)** services. **Workplace education** programs reached employees in 183 companies, and 9,141 Arkansans (or 82% of those who took the GED test), earned their **GED** credential, the Arkansas High School Diploma, in calendar year 2001.

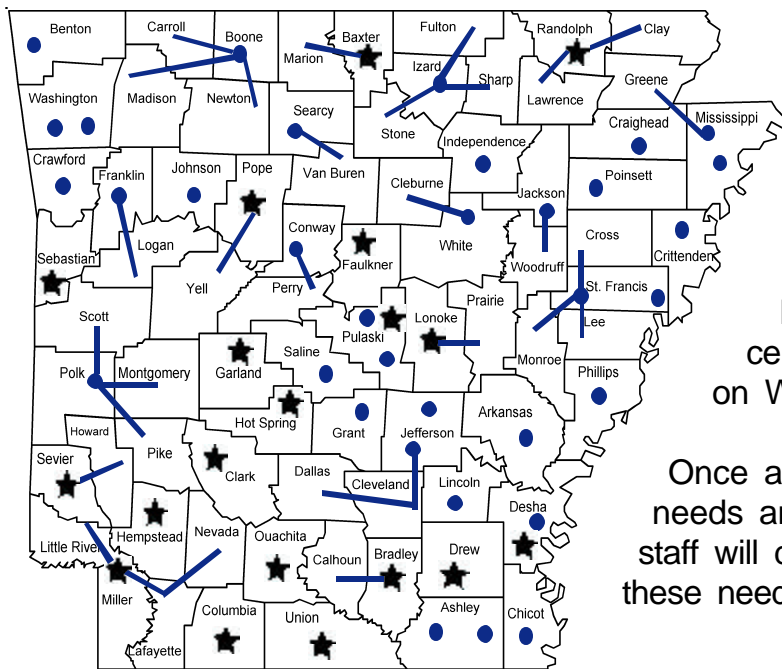
**Screening for vision problems and other possible learning disabilities** is also available in many adult education centers - adults who have had lifelong trouble with learning may have a vision problem or other learning difficulty.

## Program Locations

Adult education programs are available in every county in Arkansas.

Adult education center locations marked by stars are also certified WAGE training centers (see other side for more information on WAGE).

Once an individual or an employer's educational needs and goals are determined, adult education staff will develop a quality educational plan to meet these needs and goals.



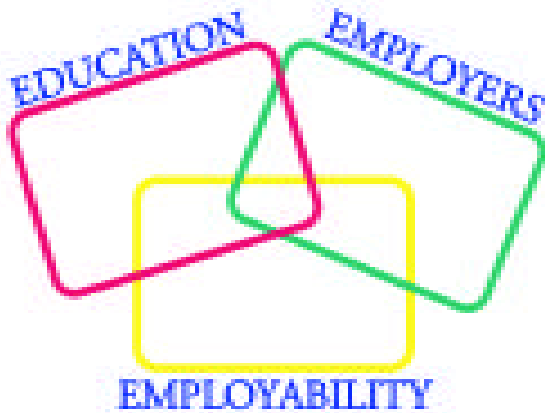
To succeed in supporting themselves and their families, adults must have solid basic academic skills - in reading, writing, and math. Children growing up in families with low academic skills are likely to have difficulty seeking work and/or raising a family as adults, leading to another generation of frustration. **Adult education is available to help.**

*For more information, call your local adult education center or the Adult Education Section of the Department of Workforce Education at (501) 682-1970, or visit the website at [www.work-ed.state.ar.us](http://www.work-ed.state.ar.us)*

Adult education can help an **employee** gain a job, retain a job, and improve earning through work-based education.

Adult education can help the **employer** overcome the shortage of skilled workers by teaching basic skills within the context of a local community's working environments.

Adult education's Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy™ (WAGE) program partners local adult education with local business and industry to enhance the basic skills of each community's workforce.



Students in the WAGE program may earn three WAGE certificates: Industrial, Clerical, and Employability. Through WAGE, participants master business-and-industry-accepted competencies within each basic skill area as required by each certificate. Instruction is customized to local business and industry needs.

Employers offer job applicants and candidates for promotion added consideration if they have earned a WAGE certificate. Employers also use the WAGE program for existing workers to either help them gain enabling skills required for high-performance work standards and/or prepare them for technical training that requires basic educational skills to be successful.

Other community WAGE alliance members include the Department of Human Services, the Employment Security Department, the Department of Economic Development, Workforce Investment Act boards and other local economic development agencies and boards, postsecondary educational providers, chambers of commerce, and employment training and placement agencies. These partners provide referrals to the WAGE program, as well as assist in promoting the program.

Arkansans who want more information about WAGE or other adult education services should contact their local adult education center or the Adult Education Section of the Department of Workforce Education. Information is provided on the other side of this page.

***WAGE: “Linking Today’s Workforce with Tomorrow’s Jobs”***

**WAGE and all other adult education programs and services are free.**

A service of the  ARKANSAS  
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